



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FIVE MEXICAN CITIZENS INDICTED IN METH CONSPIRACY

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that five citizens of the Republic of Mexico were indicted by a federal grand jury today for their role in a conspiracy to smuggle drugs into the United States for distribution in the Kansas City, Mo., metropolitan area.

Santiago N. Medrano, 29, Alejandro Medrano, 27, Francisco Javier Ibarra, 26, Alejandrina Medrano, 23, and Fernando O. Delgado, 27, all citizens of Mexico, were charged in the indictment returned by a federal grand jury meeting in Kansas City today.

That indictment, Graves explained, replaces the federal criminal complaint filed against the defendants on November 1, 2002. That complaint was among five separate but related criminal complaints filed in Kansas and Missouri, part of a nationwide operation that involves 135 defendants in several states and the Republic of Mexico.

According to Graves, the drug trafficking operation allegedly involved a large-scale organization originating in the Republic of Mexico, with drug supply lines through central California, which has supplied large quantities of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana to customers in several states, including Kansas and Missouri, since 1997. An affidavit supporting three criminal complaints filed in Kansas on November 1, 2002, alleges that a cartel of Mexican nationals, many of whom are originally from the Mexican state of Michoacan and its vicinity, have established an ongoing distribution pipeline through which hundreds of kilograms of cocaine, methamphetamine, and marijuana have been transported to the Kansas City metropolitan area.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the original criminal complaint, **Santiago Medrano** and **Alejandro Medrano** are responsible for the importation of methamphetamine brought into Kansas City. **Francisco Javier Ibarra** and **Alejandrina Medrano** (the sister of

Santiago and Alejandro Medrano and wife of **Ibarra**), the affidavit alleges, helped to facilitate the trafficking of methamphetamine by this organization. This organization, Graves said, allegedly supplied lower-level drug dealers with quantities of methamphetamine for resale.

Today's indictment, which replaces that criminal complaint, alleges that the defendants conspired to distribute more than 500 grams of methamphetamine in Jackson County between January 1, 2000 and November 4, 2002.

Graves cautioned that the charge contained in the indictment is simply an accusation, and is not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charge must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Charles E. Ambrose, Jr. The nationwide operation was coordinated by the Special Operations Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Administration. It was also investigated by Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Kansas City Metropolitan Methamphetamine Task Force, the I-35/I-70 Drug Task Force, and various police departments and county sheriffs' offices, including the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department, the Kansas City, Kansas, Police Department, the Johnson and Wyandotte County (Kansas) Sheriff's Departments, the Southern California Drug Task Force, and the Los Angeles High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Force, and other federal and local law enforcement agencies.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

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